

Halton's schools go green with blue boxes

There's something new in Halton classrooms — blue boxes.

The Halton Board of Education has begun recycling fine paper region-wide. The first pick-up takes place this week.

Ron Ballentine, the Board's project consultant on environment policy implementation, said students play a key role in the project.

"They have been in the forefront of the environmental movement in our schools and have been strong and vocal advocates for recycling."

Beginning in February, rough paper, including construction paper and cardboard, will be picked up, said Mr. Ballentine. In later months, as new markets develop, other materials will be added.

On their own initiative, and with support from the Halton Region, almost all Halton Board of Education schools are already participating in glass bottle and metal can recycling.

Many other schools have found ways to recycle items such as newsprint, magazines, plastic, and cardboard.

Each classroom now has a blue box in which students and teachers dump waste paper for recycling. Just prior to the pick-up day, volunteers (including students) dump the contents of their blue box into a central collection container.

One of the custodial staff then wheels the large collection containers outside where the contractor loads the paper into its truck and takes it for processing.

"This really just another step in saving our world," said director of education Bob Williams. "While not the ultimate solution, fine paper recycling will make a real difference environmentally."



Along with other Halton Board of Education schools, Milton District High School recently kicked off a region-wide recycling program. Celebrating (from left) are student Jennifer Schafer, Ron Ballentine of the Halton Board of Education, Milton Mayor Gord Krantz, and Halton Region Chairman Peter Pomeroy.

Just Family Services moved

Army clothing store still downtown

The Salvation Army's new location on Bronte Street South houses the Family Services office, not the Family Thrift Store.

Many residents have been getting the new Family Services location confused with the thrift store which

is still located at 363 Main St. E. An article about the move appeared on the front page of Friday's *Champion*.

"When you say the Salvation Army, people automatically think of the thrift store," explained one worker.

Earlier this week, the Salvation Army's Family Services office, where needy clients go to obtain counselling, non-perishable food, and food vouchers, moved from 190 Main St. E. to 42 Bronte St. S., Unit 13.

Day care

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"If this is an employment equity issue, there are other means to do it," said Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale. "We've got an overkill here and the end result seems to be the eroding of the number of (day care) spaces."

"I'm appalled by what I have heard today," said Oakville councillor Bill Logan. "What we have heard here is that in effect government is monopolizing one sector of the workplace. Their intentions may be the finest but the consequences are forcing people out of work."

Peter Knoepfli, co-owner of a Burlington day care centre and a spokesman for the privately-supported Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario (ADCO), told councillors ADCO estimates the plan will cost each Ontario family \$425 in new taxes a year.

Ms Phillips, the Acton mother who uses a Milton private day care centre, said when she heard of the provincial plan, "I was angry at this blatant discrimination. I was also afraid. I chose a day care (centre). I exercised my right as a taxpayer and a parent. Now the government has come along and said I don't know what I'm doing."

"I have two children who have known the staff (in Milton) since they were four months old," she continued. "They have become an integral part of the children's lives. I don't want to be told I have to yank my children out and put them in the care of people I don't know."

But Sharon Pirie, a day care owner who converted her centre to the public sector in 1987, told councillors, "I firmly believe the system has to change."

In an emotional speech, the tearful woman recounted working for as little as \$3 an hour in the private sector during the early 1980s, and interviewing child care workers recently who were still only making \$7.50 per hour. She described abuses she witnessed in private day care, such as supply shortages, understaffing and fraud. "I think this funding is long overdue."

Sandra Stewart, a Burlington private day care operator, said she was "revolted" by what she saw as Ms Pirie's attack. She described such abuses as "isolated or exaggerated."

"I'm not trying to make a personal attack on anyone," Ms Pirie said. "I think there's a lot to be done."

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